THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government had requested Govemment of Pakistan to return the clothes and other personal effects of Martyrs Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. Government of Pakistan, however, informed that concerned authorities had indicated their inability to locate the articles as the jail in which Martyrs Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev & Rajguru were hanged in 1931 was demolished and all records of temporary nature were destroyed.

Pendency of Application at Bangalore Passport Office

955. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the Bangalore passport office;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has requested to open new passport offices in the State; and

(c) if so, whether Government have agreed to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN.THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Number of applications pending for issuance of Passport at Passport Office, Bangalore as on 16.07.2002 was 1742. A passport application is considered to be pending after a clear police verification report has been received and the application is complete in ail respects. After receipt of clear police verification report passports are issued and despatched by Passport Office, Bangalore within 8 days.

(b) No request has been received from the Govt, of Karnataka to open **a** new passport office in Karnataka.

(c) Does not arise.

Organising World Powers against United Jehad Council

956. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken an opportunity to bring home to the

US, Russia, Britain and other international players trying to avert was between India and Pakistan, the reports that only hours before Pak President's speech on May 27,2002, the United Jehad Council on behalf of militants had built pressure on President Musharraf to scuttle the cease fire plan that he.was going to announce in his speech that day; and

(b) if so, what was the world powers' reaction and response thereto to deal with the so called Jehadis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Fact of Pakistan's involvement and coordination with terrorist groups is now well established and widely recognised.

The international community has called upon Pakistan to fulfil its commitment to end cross border infiltration and terrorism on a permanent basis.

Conspiracy by Pak Army to Drop Atom Bomb

†957. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Parmanu Bomb girane kee sajish thee Pak sena kee" which appeared in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 13th May, 2002.

(b) if so, whether Government are of the view that Pakistan would not repeat this type of activity in future; and

(c) if not, whether Government are prepared to face any situation of this kind arising suddenly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHR! DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (c) Pakistan has, on several occasions, averred rejection of the doctrine of no-first-use. The implications of such a policy are self-evident. Government continues to closely monitor all developments related to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes, and remains fully committed to take all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.